

KEEPING YOU POSTED

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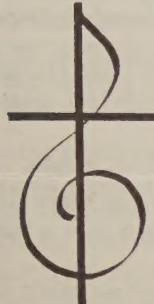
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Something for everyone:

JUL 03 1991

New UCC hymnal to combine past and present



On any given Sunday, it should not be difficult to find a UCC congregation singing the hymn, *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*. This Henry Van Dyke tune is the UCC's most popular hymn, according to a poll taken by the UC Board for Homeland Ministries.

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Conference promotes planned giving

Setting up homeless shelters, keeping the church building in repair, hospital programs overseas...UCC members can keep mission work alive after their deaths by establishing endowments. But this subject is not always easy to discuss.

The UCC Commission on Development's Planned Giving Ministry has tips on how to raise the subject, which is about more than just wills. Along with the Council for Higher Education and the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries, the commission this spring held the UCC's first churchwide planned giving conference in Chicago.

"People are committed to their church," says Donald G. Stoner, Planned Giving Ministry director. "They're looking for ways to make these gifts."

Tips from the conference: talk about endowments annually and hold workshops with lawyers, financial planners and insurance agents well-versed in estate planning. Particularly advantageous are endowments with life-income gifts, where donors collect interest while alive. Stoner also recommends the tape, *Opening Doors to Planned Giving Ministry*, available from United Church Resources, 800 N. Third St., Suite 202, St. Louis, MO, 63102; (800) 325-7061; in Missouri, (314) 621-1330.

Including that hymn and others, both old and new, in a book everyone in the UCC will agree on is the arduous task of the UCC Hymnal Committee. The 13-member committee, set up by the UC Board for Homeland Ministries, will use the survey plus information gathered since 1990 to form what it hopes will be a useful hymnal. The proposed hymnal will go to General Synod 20 in 1995.

"We're deciding what are the strong and weak points of each of the three hymnals currently in use," says Daniel

Johnson, committee member and pastor of Dunbar UCC in Hamden, Conn.

The committee recently held a public forum and spent three days in meetings at Peoples Congregational UCC in Washington, D.C. The committee explored the historic roots of hymnody and worship in various UCC traditions; defined hymnal components, such as psalms, worship materials and indices that would be biblically- and lectionary-keyed; drafted theological and functional hymnal guidelines (for discussion at

See 'Hymnal,' page 4, col. 3

Tuition hikes on horizon for seminaries

Seminaries across the country are facing increased costs and therefore increases in tuition, and UCC-related seminaries are no exception. A recent check of the seven seminaries "closely related" to the UCC revealed the following slight increases planned for full-time M.Div. students (all figures are for the coming year, except where noted). However, the schools continue to offer need-based grants, merit scholarships and work programs to offset costs.

The largest increase is at Lancaster (Penn.) Theological Seminary, where tuition will rise 12 percent, to \$5,500. Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis will

keep tuition at \$3,935, but will raise it 4 percent next year. Both Lancaster and Eden offer full-tuition scholarships to students who are "in-care" of an association.

Chicago Theological Seminary's tuition will stay at \$4,455. Five-percent increases are planned at Andover Newton Theological School in Massachusetts (to \$7,740); Bangor (Maine) Theological Seminary (\$5,640); and United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities (\$5,140). Tuition at Pacific School of Religion in California will rise 6 percent (\$5,300).

Similar trends are evident in Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)-related seminaries.

UC Homeland/World Boards to assist with debt

The UCC's homeland and world ministry boards have agreed to make available to the national UCC \$2.65 million each to help stabilize costs involved in relocating church offices to Cleveland. The boards of directors of UC Board for Homeland Ministries and UC Board for World Ministries agreed in separate votes to a "negotiated participation transfer" of funds. Moving costs were originally estimated at \$10.7 million, to be paid via a combination of gifts, tax-exempt and taxable bonds, and UCC tenant rents. Some gifts did not materialize, legal counsel advised against tax-exempt bonds and renovation costs grew by \$1.5 million, to put the total at \$11.8 million. The boards, which had agreed to guarantee all loans, offered to reduce the amount to be borrowed by making funds available up front. The Executive Council's finance and budget committee recommended acceptance with details to be worked out in negotiation. The council approved the terms of the offer by postal ballot in June.

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'What shall become of your dreams?'

"They said to one another: 'Here comes the dreamer. Come now, let us kill him...and we shall see what will become of his dreams!' -- Genesis 37:19-20

"Honey," the wife said as she shook her husband, "I just had the most wonderful dream. I dreamed that you gave me a beautiful pearl necklace for my birthday today. I wonder what that means?"

"I don't know, sweetheart," the husband replied, "but we will find out tonight."

That evening the husband gave his wife a lovely gift-wrapped box. Inside the box was a book, *How to Interpret Your Dreams*.

We know what became of her dream. But what about the dream of Martin Luther King Jr.? What about your dreams?

In the Genesis passage, the brothers of Joseph planned to kill him, believing that if the dreamer was slain, his dreams would die also. King's murderer thought the same way. But although the dreamer was killed, the dream has lived on and grown.

During his ministry, and still today, King's dream challenges us to make our dreams come true.

What shall become of our dreams?

Like Joseph and King, our dreams can become reality. King's life and ministry is a perfect example of how dream *dreamers* can become dream *makers*: of how dreams are turned into reality.

The first thing that is required is preparation. King prepared himself with the finest secular and theological education. One must prepare, plan and program.

Persistence is also required. King never gave up the struggle

to win civil rights and human dignity for the oppressed of America. One must never give up until the mission is complete.

The third requirement is prayer. King prayed daily for God to grant him the strength to do the great work he was called to do. One must seek spiritual power to achieve physical results.

In *The Wizard of Oz*, Dorothy, the Lion, the Scarecrow and the Tin Man each sought something from the Wizard in the Emerald City. When they found the Wizard, all four discovered that each one already possessed what was sought.

Dorothy had the power to return home through the magic ruby shoes. The Lion had already exhibited courage. The Tin Man had shown his heart. The Scarecrow had displayed his brains.

Just as these four characters realized their abilities, we can, too. As King discovered, through preparation, persistence and prayer, God gives us all the power to make our dreams come true. Have you realized it yet?

What do you dream about for yourself, your family, your community, your nation and your world? Do you share King's dreams of a better America in a world of peace with a human race practicing love?

If so, let us go to work to turn expectations into actuality, goals into achievements and dreams into reality. A dreamer can be slain, but a dream will outlive the dreamer. Death may take the dreamer out of our hands, but it need not take the dream out of our hearts. What shall become of your dreams?

This issue's Theology Forum author is Reo N. Leslie Jr., a minister in the Southern California Conference and an active duty Navy Chaplain.

Priorities Report

Integrity of Creation, Justice and Peace

The Pennsylvania Southeast Conference's Ecology Committee recently held its second consultation around the Integrity of Creation, Justice and Peace priority. The 25 participants were primarily college students and older persons. They used the question, "How do we wake people up to the ecological crisis facing our nation and our world?" as the focus of their discussion. Committee chair Ethel Shellenberger says next year's consultation will be even larger. The committee also asked conference churches to plant a tree and not use styrofoam cups.

Evangelism & Membership Growth

Members of Nu'uauu UCC in Honolulu place a real value on the "oneness of everyone in Christ." The church holds three worship services on Sunday, in English, Nichigobu (a Japanese language) and Samoan. The total church occasionally comes together for joint services. Most

recently, the church held a multi-language joint worship with the Samoan Congregation Church and the Vietnamese Christian Church, both in Honolulu. The service included hymns sung in Samoan, Vietnamese, Japanese and English.

Nu'uauu's administrative coordinator, Dot Kusomoto, says all churches should experience the "unity in diversity" created by multi-lingual joint worship services.

Education

Combining the arts, Bible study and worship is as natural as going to church school for second through eighth graders at Lakewood (Ohio) Congregational UCC. For one week each August, the church's music and Christian education departments hold a summer music camp, open to the community. The camp culminates in the performance of a 20-minute musical to an appreciative audience on the last day. "Thirty-five enrolled in the camp last year, and we expect even more this year," says Lyman Farrar, senior minister. Participants spend part of each 2-1/2-hour day rehearsing with music ministry director Robert Schneider, but there's always plenty of time for drawing, painting, playing handbells, Bible study and worship. This year's show, *Let's go with Mo*, is about Moses and Pharaoh. "The Bible

comes alive at summer music camp!" says Kelly Boyte Peters, associate minister.

Homeless Poor

By adding a spiritual component to First Congregational UCC's (Berkeley, Calif.) homeless ministry, pastor Bill Gregory began what has grown to become the *Berkeley Ecumenical Chaplaincy to the Homeless*. Involving 15 area churches, the program's goals are to help homeless people become independent, train them to be "peer chaplains" to other homeless people, and bring other homeless into the program. So far, almost 60 "peer chaplains" have been trained. The program also has an advocacy component.

UC Scene

At First Congregational UCC in Topeka, Kan., pastors Rebecca and Charles Erb exchanged pulpits with pastors of five area churches "as an expression of concern for Christian unity." Future programs with lay involvement are also planned. Kent Ulery, pastor of United Church of Christ in Midland, Mich., took part in a pulpit exchange with the rabbi of a local synagogue. "We gave witness to the need for strong Jewish-Christian relations," says Ulery.

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Program offers rainbows of hope to children coping with loss

Your non-custodial parent promises to take you out for your birthday, then does not show up. Do you (a) write that parent a letter explaining how disappointed you are or (b) take your frustrations out on your little brother by beating him up?

At St. Matthew UCC in Wheaton, Ill., children are helping children come to terms with their anger and sense of loss following a divorce, separation or death through *Rainbows for All God's Children*.

Rainbows, a non-profit organization, was started by a divorced mother of three in the Chicago suburb of Des Plaines in

1983. Since that time, it has expanded to 43 states and several foreign countries. Some 200,000 children have participated, according to Rose Guarine, *Rainbows'* Chicago director.

The first half of the 12-week program is spent identifying those simmering emotions that heat up after the breakup of a family. The second half concentrates on developing coping skills that prevent these feelings from boiling over, Laurie Braga of St. Matthew Church explains.

Braga coordinates the program at the church and acts as a group facilitator.

Facilitators take part in a six-hour training session to hone listening ability, among other skills. "I'm not a counselor and it's not therapy. It's peer support," she says.

"Knowing other children have the same problems makes them feel better," says Alice Frase, facilitator and coordinator of *Rainbows at Peace Memorial UCC* in Palos Park, Ill.

UCC members can become facilitators through their local churches. For more information, write *Rainbows for All God's Children*, 1111 Tower Road, Schaumburg, IL 60173; (708) 310-1880.

Prison ministry network offers information, help

As the crime rate rises, the lives of pastors and parishioners are increasingly being touched by prison ministry. Chaplains and those who work in advocacy, aftercare, juvenile intervention and prevention, and prison reform are all part of prison ministry. But where do pastors and congregations find information and help?

One place is a UCC network of prison ministry and criminal justice personnel organized by Laurie Tockey, a UCC chaplain at Lincoln (Ill.) Correctional Center. Through the network, those in prison ministry and others seeking information can discuss problems and possible solutions.

"Hopefully, this network of people with different roles and perspectives on prison ministry will help the UCC develop a comprehensive vision about ministry to prisoners and their families," says Tockey.

People affected by the prison system can share their stories by contacting Tockey at 547 A 8th St., Lincoln, IL 62656; (217) 735-4019.

Upcoming Events

Summer at Kirkridge (Bangor, PA) - various topics/speakers; (215) 588-1793...**Introducción a Santa Fe** - bed/breakfast fund raiser for children's ministry program at United Church of Santa Fe UCC, Aug. 16-20, during Annual Indian Market featuring 500 Native American artists. Write: Church of Santa Fe UCC, 1804 Arroyo Chamiso, Santa Fe, NM, 87505; (505) 988-3295...**Consultation XVII on Parish Ministry, Pastor as Spiritual Leader**, Jan. 6-10, 1992, Orlando, Fla.; speakers - Madeleine L'Engle, Henri Nouwen, Andrew Young, Andrea Young, William Sloane Coffin, Miriam Therese Winter, Minka Sprague. Write: Robert Alward, P.O. Box 1578, Marco Island, FL, 33969-1578; (813) 642-8635...**National Youth Event**, July 9-13, 1992, Beloit College, Wis. Theme: *Shout it from the Mountain Top*. Write: Gordon Svoboda, UC Board for Homeland Ministries, 700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH, 44115-1100.

Working together within the UCC:

Sherry/Biblical Witness Fellowship share commitment

Executive Council representatives met in Cleveland May 28-29 with representatives of Biblical Witness Fellowship. In an open letter to the UCC, president Paul Sherry and BWF representatives write, "The sessions were times of open and frank discussion, sharing and listening.

"Several points of agreement grew out of these discussions. We agreed that our foundation of covenant, as expressed in the Basis of Union of the United Church of Christ, are the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, confirmed in the historic creeds and implemented in the Constitution of the United Church of Christ.

"We also shared a common commitment to work together within the United

Church of Christ. Together, we celebrate the gifts brought to the church by the Biblical Witness Fellowship and encourage the BWF to celebrate the gifts of other witnesses as well.

"We are committed to talking with and listening to one another and to working together in new ways. We commit ourselves to examining ways that all views can be empowered in our church.

"We will be making a report and some specific recommendations to the Executive Council as a result of our dialogue. Together, we urge others in our church to find ways to share and listen and pray for the unity and well being of the whole church."

Opposing Views

Concerning the "Toward the 21st Century" planning process, Leroy Allen of Tucson, Ariz., writes, "the...significant changes that have taken place in our world during this past century require many changes in the ways the Church reaches out to the new generations of God's people...Our mainline liberal Protestant churches have too long been content with a ministry that focused on preaching and teaching to the neglect of the healing ministry...What a tremendous opportunity awaits the Church..." In response to last issue's Theology Forum, E.S. Ewing of St. Louis points out that Saddam Hussein said "he would...unite all the Arabs into a world coalition of Arab and Muslim people that would arise and overwhelm the 'decadent Satanic West'...he only asked 10 years - to conquer his neighbors, acquire the oil, chemical and biological weapons, nuclear bombs and missiles necessary...Should we have waited that 10 years?" James D. Edwards, pastor of St. Paul's UCC, North Tonawanda, N.Y., writes that the article "...targeted the wrong enemy! The war was the direct result of human sinfulness, NOT the Christian or Muslim idea that God is sovereign...The world would be a far less violent place if we preached more, not less, that the risen Christ is the sovereign King and Lord of this world, and if we lived in genuine submission to

his just and peaceful will." He adds that the article goes against "...our Reformed heritage, with its strong emphasis on the sovereignty of God." John Van Blarcom of Lancaster, Ohio, agrees: fashioning a "democratically designed god to replace the eternally unchanging God and Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" is what Aaron did "when the people asked him to make them a god. The result was the well-known golden calf which, like all human-crafted gods, did not last very long." Sylvanus M. Duvall of Sarasota, Fla., writes that "Religious leaders have no more right to engage in social action than they have to practice dentistry...the 'social action record' of church leadership is unrelievedly unfortunate." He cites support of prohibition and the Neutrality Acts, as well as a pre-UCC 1934 Congregational General Assembly decision to "work for the abolition of capitalism" (later rescinded) as examples.

SEND NEWS STORIES, PHOTOGRAPHS and OPPOSING VIEWS of 100 words or less to stands taken in a particular article to **Keeping You Posted**, United Church of Christ, Office of Communication, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115.

News Briefs

Leaders urge House to override civil rights veto

UCC president Paul H. Sherry and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) president and general minister John O. Humbert are two of 17 U.S. church leaders who signed a letter to members of the U.S. House of Representatives, urging them to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1991 and override a presidential veto of the bill. The religious leaders wrote that the bill "explicitly states that employers are not required to adopt hiring or promotion quotas and that numerical imbalances alone do not establish a violation of the law." The bill passed, but by a margin that appears insufficient to override the veto.

Faithful to God and the IRS

A new study from University of Oklahoma researchers finds that only 7 percent of those who go to church at least once a week are inclined to cheat at tax time. Fifteen percent of those who attend church one to three times a week are likely to cheat, and 30 percent is the figure for those who never go to church. The survey also found that only 15 percent of those who claimed denominational affiliation said they might cheat on taxes. The number was just under 50 percent among those who were not affiliated.

Local churches can mail out national materials

The Office of Classification and Rates Administration of the U.S. Postal Service has ruled that congregations can enclose national and conference material in their mailings. It advises that either the local church's name be stamped onto the material or a cover letter identifying the material as that of the congregation be enclosed.

Personnel Changes

UCC Office of Communication: Kathi D. Wolfe, promoted from writer to coordinator for special projects; Sharon Jefferson, promoted from public relations assistant to writer.

UC Board for World Ministries: Terry Provance is secretary for world ministries in the U.S.; Susan Peacock is secretary for global education and advocacy.

UC Board for Homeland Ministries: Division of American Missionary Association: Cynthia N. Ikuta is secretary for ministries to special groups; Juanita Helphry is secretary for racial justice programs; Alfonso A. Roman has left to become special assistant to the president

at Bloomfield College. **Division of Education and Publication:** Jose Abraham de Jesus is secretary for education in the local church; Grant F. Sontag is secretary for biblical and theological foundations in education; James D. Heaney is secretary for publications and publisher of The Pilgrim Press and United Church Press; **Office of the Executive Vice President:** C. Kirk Hadaway is secretary for research and evaluation; Bill G. Hendricks is secretary for business affairs. **Division of Evangelism and Local Church Development:** Henry Simmons has left to become senior minister of St. Albans Congregational UCC, Queens, N.Y.



Photo: Aaron Goodman

Seneca father and child are part of "Honorable Nations," one of the shows in this summer's "POV - Television with a Point of View." The PBS series of independent non-fiction films usually airs on Tuesday evenings. Check TV guide for dates/times. Other topics include chemical toxins and an interview with the mother of three who is also a guerilla leader in the El Salvadoran rebel army.

Hymnal (con'd. from page 1)

Synod); and examined the technical aspects of editing and producing the book.

"Given the strong, diverse traditions and forward-looking attitude of this multicultural denomination, I anticipate a hymnal of great diversity," says Arthur Clyde, hymnal editor. "We have also seen some specific needs: for example, providing more baptism and communion hymns."

The committee has also met with biblical scholars, sociologists, hymnal editors from other denominations and various special interest groups. The next meeting and forum of the hymnal committee will be in Grinnell, Iowa, in September.

Looking for a job?

UCC President needs Assistant for Ecumenical Concerns. Responsibilities: develop information/supply resources on ecumenical visions and relations for the church; develop networks; staff ecumenical structures; administer UCC ecumenical portfolio. Requires theological/ecumenical background, ability to facilitate relationships, communicate, organize, administer. Deadline: July 15. Start: Jan. 2, 1992. Write: Bernice Powell, Executive Associate, UCC Office of the President, 700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115-1100.

Director of Development - Emmaus Homes, Inc. Direct institution-wide efforts to secure funds from individuals, congregations, church related organizations, foundations, corporations. Salary commensurate with background/experience. Resumes: Deane Ruppert, Executive Director, Emmaus Homes, Inc., P.O. Box 220, St. Charles, MO 63302.

House Manager for Sean's Place, a transitional home for 12 men, homeless for at least two years and now striving for independent living through a program with Freedom House, an ecumenical ministry. Stipend plus room/board. Five nights/week, two weekends/month. Contact: Pete Jones, 713 North First St., Richmond, VA 23219; (804) 344-8164.

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